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From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron Composite 13
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy
Yard, Washington, DC

Subj: CALENDAR YEAR 2004 COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Commanding Officer's Biography
(2) Commanding Officer's Picture
(3) Flight Hour and Sortie Summary

1. Per reference (a), the following shore-activity historical data is forwarded.

2. Command Composition and Organization.

a. VFC-13/52995

b. The "Fighting Saints" of VFC-13 are charged with providing threat representative aircraft, tactics and weapon systems for fleet aircraft to oppose during Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) detachments, Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Programs (SFARP) and Air Wing training.

c. Immediate Superior in Command is Captain F. C. Fearnow, Commander, Carrier Air Wing Reserve 20 (CVWR-20), located at NAS Atlanta, Marietta, GA.

Commanding Officer: CDR Daniel T. Masterson
Executive Officer: CDR James P. DiMatteo
Officer-in-Charge: CDR(sel) Stephen J. Hartung
Command Master Chief: AMCS(AW) Charles T. Kawakone

d. Type and number of aircraft assigned: 23 Northrop F-5E/F/N "Tiger II" aircraft with the tail code "AF".

3. Chronology

(1) Adversary; 7 Jan-10 Feb, NAS Key West, Supported VFA-122 (FRS).

(2) Air Wing; 17 Jan-4 Feb, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-14 REDAIR.

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- (3) Air Wing; 17 Jan-4 Feb, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-17
REDAIR.
- (4) SFARP; 9 Feb-17 Mar, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-3 (FRS).
- (5) Adversary; 11 Mar-28 May, NAS Fallon, Supported VFA-122
(FRS).
- (6) First F-5N Delivery; 26 Mar, NAS Fallon, BUNO 761551
- (7) Change-of-Command; 27 Mar, NAS Fallon, CDR D. T.
Masterson relieves CAPT J. E. Cole.
- (8) Air Wing; 12 Apr-30 Apr, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-17
REDAIR.
- (9) Adversary; 19 Apr-30 Apr, NAS Key West, Supported VFA-122
(FRS).
- (10) Air Wing; 25 May-28 May, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-2
REDAIR.
- (11) SFARP; 7 Jun-24 Jun, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-2 (FRS).
- (12) Adversary; 28 Jun-16 Jul, NAS Key West, Supported VFA-
122 (FRS).
- (13) Adversary; 9 Jul-25 Jul, NAS Key West, Supported VFA-101
(FRS).
- (14) SFARP; 20 Jul-20 Aug, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-9 (FRS).
- (15) Air Wing; 23 Aug-31 Aug, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-3
REDAIR.
- (16) Air Wing; 14 Sep-30 Sep, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-3
REDAIR.
- (17) SFARP; 16 Sep-13 Oct, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-11
(FRS).
- (18) Adversary; 17 Sep-29 Sep, NAS Key West, Supported VFA-122
(FRS).
- (19) Adversary; 1 Oct-24 Nov, NAS Key West, Supported VFA-
122 (FRS).
- (20) Air Wing; 25 Oct-16 Nov, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-9
REDAIR.
- (21) SFARP; 1 Nov-7 Nov, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-17 (FRS).
- (22) SFARP; 5 Dec-18 Dec, NAS Fallon, Supported CVW-17
(FRS).
- (23) Adversary; 8 Dec-8 Dec, NAS Fallon, Supported VFA-122
(FRS).
- (24) Adversary; 8 Dec-17 Dec, NAS Key West, Supported VFA-106
(FRS).

4. Narrative

In the Calendar Year 2004, the Saints demonstrated the qualities and capabilities that set this adversary squadron apart from any other in the fleet. In a year whose Naval Aviation operations were defined by the Chief of Naval

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Operations' (CNO) "Surge" plan, VFC-13 proved itself to be the 'Center of the Surge.'

As the CNO tasked his fleets with fielding five Carrier Strike Groups simultaneously, plus two in ready reserve, the Air Wing training tempo increased dramatically. In 2004, VFC-13 rose to that challenge, providing an important part of the training that made this surge capability possible.

With only 23 aircraft and 37 aircrew assigned, the Saints flew a landmark 4995 sorties and 5352.9 flight hours, achieving the highest sortie rate of any fighter squadron in the Navy while operating the fleet's oldest tactical platform. Support missions included 7 detachments, 6 Air Wing exercises, 6 Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP) exercises, and support for 5 TOPGUN classes at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center.

Remarkably this high training pace was attained by a cadre consisting mostly of Reserve Officers. Of 37 aircrew assigned to the squadron during CY 2004, 27 were Reservists. Their achievements during this year have set a high standard for Active-Reserve Integration (ARI).

With the introduction to service in 2004 of the F-5N, the Tiger II's viability as an adversary platform will be extended for decades to come. Similarly, October's confirmation of a permanent VFC-13 detachment at NAS Key West represents a continued growth of the Saint's role in air combat training for the fleet.

5. Picture and biography of Commanding Officer are included as enclosures (1) and (2). Spreadsheet of flight hours and sorties included as enclosure (3).

D. T. MASTERSON

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